Import of rubber

49. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import 20,000 tonnes of rubber;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the quantity of rubber available in the country as at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Domestic production of natural rubber upto August, 1985 would not be sufficient to meet the domestic demand. The gap is estimated to be of the order of 20,000 tonnes. At the end of June, 1985 estimated stock of natural rubber was around 39,000 tonnes, without taking into account the import by STC.

Closure of Anglo-French Textile Mill

50. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Anglo-French Textile Mill at Pondicherry is lying closed;

(b) how many workers were employed at the time of the closure;

(c) the total number of man-days since lost and the amount of loss of production in terms of money and cloth;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to rehabilitate the workers; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to take over the mill by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Anglo-French Textiles Mill, Pondicherry has been lying closed since July, 1983. At the time of its closure the number of workers was around 6800;

(c) For the period July 1983 to June 1985 the total number of mandays lost is estimated to be around 32.13 lakhs and the loss of production of yarn and cloth around 1.86 crore Kgs and 8.6 crore metres respectively;

(d) Efforts are on to explore the possibility of re-opening the undertaking.

(e) The Government have not taken any decision regarding take-over of the undertaking so far.

Closed Textile Mills

51. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI L. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills presently closed in the country;

(b) what is the number of workers who have lost their jobs as a result of such closure during the last three years State-wise;

(c) what is the total number of man-days thus lost, year-wise;

(d) what was the question of loss in production during the above period and the financial extent of loss, year-wise; and

(e) what is the number of closed textile mills which are proposed to be takenover by Government in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) As on 31st May, 1985, 68 cotton textile mills were closed in the country. The number of workers affected as a result of closure of the said 68 cotton textile mills is 95,415.

(c) and (d) Precise information as asked for is not available.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present

Seizure of Gold at Madras Airport

52. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs officials posted at Madras Airport seized 28 Kgs. of gold from a Singapore national on the 22nd June, 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The seizure of 28 Kgs. of gold from Singapore national referred to in the question was made on 25th May, 1985 and not on 22nd June, 1985.

On 25th May, 1985, the officers of Customs Collectorate, Madras, intercepted a Singapore national Shri R. Raman who had arrived from Singapore by Air India flight No. AI-415. On examination of one of his suitcases, 28 pieces of gold bars with foreign markings weighing 1 kg. each were found concealed among the nine bundles of readymade garments. Gold weighing 28 kgs. valued at Rs. 63.14 lakhs was seized under the Customs Act. Shri Raman was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

Export of wheat to Pakistan

53. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export wheat to Pakistan during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) No contract has so far been entered into for export of wheat to Pakistan during the current financial year.

Bank Robberies

54. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was total number of bank robberies in the country during the first quarter of 1985:

(b) what is the number of bank robberies during the corresponding preiod of 1984;

(c) what are the names of the banks where such robberies were committed and the amount involved; and

(d) whether any culprits have been apprehended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The available information is given in the attached statement. [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 3.]

(d) As per available information 41 persons have been apprehended.

55. [*Transferred to the 29th July*, 1985.]

Diamond Trade

56. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the diamond trade is being virtually controlled by International Monopoly Houses; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government to protect the Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Diamond Trading Company controls substantial part of international mining and marketing of rough diamonds. There is no such trading company for cut and polished diamonds.